

Meeting Minutes
Saline Sustainability Circle
Tuesday January 20, 2009
York Township Hall

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

Pittsfield Township: Gerald Krone

Saline Area Schools: Tom Wall

Saline Area Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

City of Saline: Todd Campbell, David Rhoads, Art Trapp

Washtenaw County Commissioners: Kristin Judge, Jessica Ping, Wesley Prater

Washtenaw County Office of Strategic Planning: Patricia Denig, Brett Lenart

York Township: Jane Kartje, Frank Stukenborg, Gary Zajac

State Senator Randy Richardville: John Manor

2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from November 18, 2008

Motion by Rhoads, supported by Steeb, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Select SSC Liaison to the Washtenaw County Planning Advisory Board

Nominations: Jan Godek, Lodi Township Supervisor, nominated by Steeb, supported by Rhoads. No other nominations. Jan Godek approved by acclamation.

4. Review of Regional Planning Guidelines for the Saline Sustainability Circle

Bret Lenart and Patricia Denig of the Washtenaw County Office of Strategic Planning reviewed the [Saline Sustainability Circle Regional Planning Guidelines](#) published in March 2004 and suggested ways it could be improved.

- History: Presented to seven jurisdictions, endorsed by four, and incorporated into one master plan.
- Importance of regionalism: Many issues transcend the local units of government.
- How to make regionalism work.
- History of regional plans in Washtenaw County:
 - Chelsea/Dexter area
 - Huron River Watershed Council Buffer Initiative
 - Washtenaw Metro Alliance
 - Prioritized needs and opportunities
 - Manchester Community Joint Planning commission
 - Region: Develop plan; Plan must be adopted by every jurisdiction to take effect
 - Local: Regulatory

- There is a potential conflict between regional needs and local needs. For example, funding for roads.
- Next steps
 - Review the process and plans for Manchester and other areas (February meeting).
 - Determine whether the process applies to the Saline area.

The presentation, "[SSC Regional Planning Guidelines \(and other regional opportunities\)](#)" is attached.

Additional discussion included:

[Population Projections and Legal Defensibility](#)

[Public Purposes of the Master Plan: The Five C's](#)

[Manchester Community Joint Planning Commission Plan Amendment Process](#)

[Collaboration Continuum](#)

5. Next Meeting

The February 17, 2009, meeting will be held at Union School, Saline. The agenda will include a discussion of the process for developing regional plans and whether that process is appropriate for the Saline area.

6. Future Agenda Items

Develop a strategy for Private Wastewater Treatment Plants within the SSC region
Transfer of Development Rights (Elizabeth Riggs)
Saline River Green Belt

7. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

February 17, 2009–Historic Union School, Saline

8. Administrative Items

- Pittsfield Township has appointed Gerald Krone as its representative to the SSC; Barbara Fuller was appointed as alternate.
- Gary Zajac replaces Jane Kartje as one of York Township's representatives.

9. Meeting Notices and Announcements

- February 4, 8:00 AM - noon: Human Resources Exchange Group will have seminar with speaker Steve Fishman. See the [Chamber of Commerce website](#) for more information.
- February 5, 3:00–9:00 PM: Ladies Night Out, downtown Saline.
- February 10 at 4:00 PM is the cutoff for nominating petitions for the School Board election in May. (Corrected date)
- February 15, 2:00–4:00 PM: The Saline District Library will hold a discussion on Tom Friedman's book, "Hot, Flat, and Crowded"
- March 14: Trade show to showcase local businesses at the Farm Council Grounds.
- The City of Saline is working on a marketing plan for the city. The plan includes developing a logo and tagline plus a website.
- The City of Saline and Saline Township continue to work on an urban development agreement.

- The City of Saline recently conducted a citizen survey. City Council is using the data in its goal/priority-setting sessions for the 2009-10 budget.
- The Ford ACH Saline plant has plans to continue in operation for several years. Ford continues to make significant investments in the plant. Ford still hopes to sell the plant.
- Toyota is planning a new test chamber at its site in York Township.
- Senator Randy Richardville is working on a repeal of the surcharge on the Michigan Business Tax. He is also working on the budget issues facing the state.
- The Chamber of Commerce is working on its 18-month update to the Saline Area map. Larry Osterling would like the name of a point person from each jurisdiction to review the draft.
- Andrew Lund from Toyota is a new member of the Chamber of Commerce Board.
- Washtenaw County administrative staff has prepared a list of projects that could be done with federal stimulus money.
- Washtenaw County is faced with a budget shortfall; costs are rising while revenues (taxes and state revenue-sharing) are falling. Commissioners and staff are determining which services are mandated by law and which are not mandated.
- The Lodi Township Master Plan is in the 90-day review process. The plan was sent out for review to surrounding municipalities, the county, and other interested parties in early December.
- Pittsfield Township is reviewing the services it provides in light of rising costs and falling revenues.
- Pittsfield Township is investigating what is required to upgrade water service in the northeast portion of the township.
- Pittsfield Township rescinded the contract for a herpetological study of the Pittsfield Preserve due to budget concerns.
- Saline Area Schools is reviewing its kindergarten program due to state funding changes.
- Saline Area Schools is facing the same budget pressures as other jurisdictions. The district is starting its budget process and is looking at possible reductions.
- The Saline Leadership Institute recently graduated Class 11 and is looking for its next training group. Class 12 starts in April with a two-day retreat, followed by one day per month for the next nine months. Tuition is \$495.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Veenstra
Secretary

Visit the Saline Sustainability Circle website at www.salinesustainability.org.